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Letters to the Editor

DEFENSE WRITTEN FOR JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Dear Editor—

I am still torpid with amazement as I take pen in hand to comment on the letter of Project City's William Coyle. Having read many sophomoric diatribes in my short 24 years, I feel that Mr. Coyle's letter certainly deserves at least honorable mention in that field.

Using in his letter every tactic which he accuses conservatives of using, Mr. Coyle clearly indicates that his mind is made up; he does not wish to be confused with facts. Thus it is not for his benefit, but to those whose outlook is mature and whose search is for facts, that I direct these few observations.

The goal of the John Birch Society is set forth on page 162 of the Bluebook, founding document of the Society. It reads: "The purpose of the John Birch Society, as officially stated, will be to promote less government, more responsibility, and a better world. The purpose, as unofficially described and discussed among ourselves will be exactly the same thing. Our short-range purpose, our long-range purpose, and our lasting purpose, is to promote less government, more responsibility, and a better world."

This phrase succinctly states the goal of conservatives both in and out of the JBS. The entire program of the conservative movement in general and the Society in particular is centered around a tremendous effort to de-centralize our government, in accordance with the constitution. And this effort, by its very nature, puts conservatives in direct opposition to the Communists, who must always work for concentrating as much power as possible in the hands of as few as possible before they can capture control of this or any country. So the battle to defeat the world communist conspiracy is only one battle in the total war against centralization of power (collectivism).

As for a few choice distortions in Mr. Coyle's letter here are a few. (Quoting the San Francisco archdiocese)

know of no priests who belong to it (the JBS), let alone starting chapters." Catholics, just as everyone else, are divided on the issue of anti-communism today. Just because some group or individual (whom Mr. Coyle does not name) representing the San Francisco archdiocese says they do not know of any priests who belong to the John Birch Society does not mean that this is true. In fact, the Rev. Richard Ginder, Editor of *The Priest* and Associate Editor of *Our Sunday Visitor*, who is one of the best-known and most widely read essayists and editorial writers in the Catholic press in America, is a member of the COUNCIL of the John Birch Society. The Council is the top governing body of the Society. I'm sure the Rev. Ginder qualifies as a priest!

After stating that Welch believes in impeaching Earl Warren, Mr. Coyle inserts "(Followers claim lynched)." One is left to assume that Mr. Coyle means followers of Robert Welch, i.e. John Birch members, think Earl Warren should be lynched. The only anti-communist I have ever known or heard of who stated that he thought Earl Warren should be lynched was a speaker for an organization known as Project Alert. He made the statement on the platform of a school being sponsored by that organization, and was promptly reprimanded publicly by one Cleon Skousen, who was moderating the program. Ever since that incident anti - anti - communists of Coyle's character have been spreading the completely unfounded statement that John Birchers and all other related right-wingers are in favor of lynching Warren! In Robert Welch's pamphlet called "The Movement to Impeach Earl Warren" he states that the grounds on which the whole movement is based are not that Mr. Warren is subversive, but that he has not met "the constitutional requirements of good behavior in office."

In the next breath Mr. Coyle states that "One director says the CIA is a branch of Soviet espionage. One director of the John Birch Society"

Mr. Coyle doesn't say, so the reader is left to assume that he means a director of the John Birch Society. If so, will you please name this director and give publication and page number where this director makes this statement, Mr. Coyle? E-R readers are not interested in wild charges but in documented facts.

But there is more. "A statement they (once again he does not identify this ambiguous 'they') are circulating in Washington, which they attribute to Khrushchev about doses of socialism turning into communism, has been proved by the FBI, CIA, Senate Internal Security Committee to be an absolute fake." Mr. Coyle does not quote the statement, by Mr. K., which reads as follows: "We cannot expect the Americans to jump from Capitalism to Communism, but we can assist their elected leaders in giving Americans small doses of Socialism, until they suddenly awake to find they have Communism."

Once again, Mr. Coyle, would you please quote chapter and verse of the FBI, CIA or Senate Internal Security Sub-Committee publication wherein they present documentation to the effect that Khrushchev never made such a statement? Such reputable firms as Coast Federal Savings of Los Angeles would like to see such government publications, since they have been distributing copies of the statement which they took from page 12622 of the July 26, 1961, Congressional Record!

Mr. Coyle's letter is a perfect example of the kind of unsupported charges that are being circulated even by heretofore reputable magazines of national circulation. Incidentally, for anyone who wishes to read for himself the Bluebook of the John Birch Society or the other pamphlets to which I have referred, they are available from the Conservative Bookshop and Information Center, 731 Main Street in Chico. The Conservative Bookshop carries the publications of all bona fide conservative and/or anti-communist organizations in America. I would suggest that readers who really want to know what the

John Birch Society is all about read the Bluebook for themselves. You will find that the JBS just does not fit Mr. Coyle's description.

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